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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 27 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Slovenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Milan Kucan, President of the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 97 (c), and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Danilo TÜRK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

ANNEX

Letter dated 25 November 1992 from the President of Slovenia addressed to the Secretary-General

I can still remember the conversation we had two months ago on the tragedy of the nations of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina and on the ways of overcoming the war, as well as the necessity to find a political solution to the crisis, reduce the suffering of thousands of children and adults, and save human lives.

The conversation with you left a very deep impression on me, as it had revealed your exceptional sensitivity to the tragedy of these so unfortunate people and also moved me to write this letter.

People, young and old, men and women, are still dying a violent death in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In their desperate attempts at mass and hopeless flight from fire and sword, and the force that kills, destroys and burns in blind hate all that it finds on its way, hundreds and thousands have become refugees and homeless persons in their own country, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The conquest of land, its ethnic cleansing and the genocidal aggression are finding allies in the coming winter, cold and snow, epidemics, starvation and exhaustion.

Forced deportations and displacements of whole cities, towns, villages and the consequences of such war crimes demand at least humanitarian aid for accommodation and care for the victims of persecution and expulsion. Once ethnic cleansing, genocide, forced changing of borders and the conquering of territory become a fait accompli, Europe and the world will be confronted by catastrophic consequences. We certainly cannot underestimate the fact that the ethnic composition of the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina is being changed and left ravaged by this war. This in turn, and if nothing is undertaken against it, will undoubtedly make harder or even prevent the maintaining of territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a country of three nations with equal rights.

The people of Slovenia carry their share of the burden imposed by providing shelter and humanitarian aid to the numerous refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina with understanding, but unfortunately, this burden has already exceeded what our country can bear. Very few European countries carry a heavier burden than Slovenia.

Fear of migrations is widespread, particularly in West Europe, but such fears cannot be removed by the sending of humanitarian aid alone, the more so because the aggressor in this war, as hard to grasp as this may seem to us, still remains an interlocutor of equal status with the rest of the world and even with the United Nations, which thus approve of and tolerate the policies and their creators directly responsible for this tragedy. It is these very policies that the international community is confronting without any evident

success, even though it is investing enormous material means, time and energy in fighting against the consequences of the war.

Allow me, therefore, to draw your attention to the proposal, made by myself as well as other representatives of Slovenia at many international conferences and in various discussions over the last five months, and the same one I presented to you during our meeting in New York.

Finding solutions to humanitarian aspects of the crisis, the assurance of a political future for Bosnia and Herzegovina as a State of three independent nations and, not least, the alleviation of migrational pressure on Europe can be accomplished only by immediate political and military action to establish, without any delay, an adequate number of safety zones under United Nations protection. In that respect, the report of Mr. Tadeusz Mazowiecki and his suggestions have made a profound impression on us and have also shown that he has recently come up with solutions, very similar to ours.

I also believe that it would be absolutely necessary to have the United Nations establish a permanent and safe corridor from Sarajevo to the coast. Such a corridor would enable the uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid and prevent the complete destruction of Sarajevo as a city and its further transformation into a death camp for its inhabitants.

Rapid and concrete measures are of the utmost urgency, otherwise people in that republic will continue to die in thousands. By looking helplessly upon this mass slaughter and further infliction of grief we are becoming, objectively speaking, accomplices to what has already happened and is still happening in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In the light of all of the above reasons, I find it extremely important that the United Nations has asked you to study the possibilities and conditions for the establishment of safety zones to be used for humanitarian aid. I am convinced you will do your best in the shortest time possible so as to prevent by rapid action further crimes against humanity and this catastrophe and human tragedy. We are extending to you our fullest support in these efforts.

Milan KUČAN
President